

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus connectable with an external printer, comprising:
 - communicating means for communication with
5 said external printer;
 - notifying means for notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;
 - 10 generating means for processing, after said notifying means executes the notification, data to be printed to generate print data;
 - sending means for said sending the print data generated by said generating means to said
15 external printer through said communicating means.
2. A system according to Claim 2, wherein said notifying means sends a predetermined command as said notification to said external printer.
20
3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said notifying means executes its notifying operation by exchange of interface signal with said external printer in said communicating means.
25
4. A printer comprising:
 - analyzing means for analyzing the signal
received from external means;
 - preparation means for executing
30 preparation to be executed prior to printing action when a result of analysis by said analyzing means indicates that signal is instructions of the preparation;

printing means for executing, when a result of analysis by said analyzing means indicates that signal is print data, printing process on the basis of the print data.

5 5. A printer according to Claim 4,
wherein the signal is a predetermined command.

6. A printer according to Claim 4,
wherein the signal is interface signal exchanged
10 with the external means.

7. A printer according to Claim 4,
wherein said printing means includes an ink jet head
for ejecting ink, and wherein said preparation means
15 cleans the ink jet head.

8. A printer according to Claim 7,
wherein said preparation means effects suction
recovery of said ink jet head.

20 9. A printer according to Claim 4,
wherein said printing means includes a fixing device
for fixing toner, and said preparation means heats
said fixing device.

25 10. A printing system including an
information processing apparatus and an external
printer which are communicatably connected through
communicating means, comprising:

30 notifying means for effecting pre-print
notification to said external printer through said
communicating means when execution of printing is
instructed;

generating means for processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying means, data to be printed to generate print data;

sending means for sending the print data generated by said generating means to said external printer through said communicating means, said external printer including:

preparation means for executing, in response to pre-print notification provided by said communicating means, preparation to be executed prior to printing action; and

printing means for executing printing process on the basis of print data sent by said sending means.

11. A method of processing printing information to be supplied through communicating means to an external printer, said method comprising:

a notification step of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

a generating step of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notification step, data to be printed to generate print data;

a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said external printer through said communicating means.

12. A printing method comprising:

an analyzing step of analyzing a signal received from outside;

a preparation step of executing preparation to be executed prior to printing when

the signal is indicative of instructions of preparation prior to the printing as a result of analysis of said analyzing step; and

5 a printing step of execution printing process on the basis of the print data when the signal is indicative of print data.

10 13. A control method for a printing system including a information processing apparatus and an external printer connectable with each other for communication through communicating means, comprising:

15 a notification step of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

a preparation step of executing preparation to be executed prior to printing in said external printer in accordance with the pre-print notification of said notification step;

20 a generating step of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying step, data to be printed;

25 a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said external printer through said communicating means;

a printing step of executing printing process in accordance with print data sent by said sending step.

30 14. A memory medium for storing a control program for operating a computer of an information processing apparatus connected through communicating means with an external printer, wherein said control program comprising:

a code of a notification process of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

5 a code of a generating process of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying process, data to be printed to generate print data; and

10 a code of a sending process of sending the print data generated by said generating process to said external printer through said communicating means.